

Battle For The Family: 4 of 4
“Battle For Our Parent’s Honor”
Cornerstone Church of Poway
Pastor Ed Turley
February 24, 2019

Big Idea: Our families are not the enemy. We must battle against the devil, our culture and our flesh for the future of our families.

"Do not give the devil a foothold." **Ephesians 4:27 (NIV) Remember Verse**

“Children, obey your parents because you belong to the Lord, for this is the right thing to do. **“Honor your father and mother.”** This is the first commandment with a promise: If you honor your father and mother, “things will go well for you, and you will have a long life on the earth.” Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger by the way you treat them. Rather, bring them up with the discipline and instruction that comes from the Lord.” **Ephesians 6:1-4 (NLT2)**

To Keep The Devil From Gaining A Foothold, We Must:

1. Honor Our Parents With _____

“Gentle words are a tree of life; a deceitful tongue crushes the spirit. Only a fool despises a parent’s discipline; whoever learns from correction is wise.”

Proverbs 15:4-5 (NLT2)

“Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other.”

Romans 12:10 (NLT2)

“Don’t use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.”

Ephesians 4:29 (NLT2)

Notes: _____

2. Honor Our Parents By _____

“But you say it is all right for people to say to their parents, ‘Sorry, I can’t help you. For I have vowed to give to God what I would have given to you.’ In this way, you say they don’t need to honor their parents. And so you cancel the word of God for the sake of your own tradition. You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you, for he wrote, ‘These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their **worship** is a farce, for they teach man-made ideas as commands from God.’” **Matthew 15:5-9 (NLT2)**

“But those who won’t care for their relatives, especially those in their own household, have denied the true faith. Such people are worse than unbelievers. “

1 Timothy 5:8 (NLT2)

“If a woman who is a believer has relatives who are widows, she must take care of them and not put the responsibility on the church. Then the church can care for the widows who are truly alone.” **1 Timothy 5:16 (NLT2)**

Notes: _____

3. Honor Our Parents By Extending _____

“Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.” **Ephesians 4:31-32 (NLT2)**

Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they don’t know what they are doing.” And the soldiers gambled for his clothes by throwing dice. **Luke 23:34 (NLT2)**

“Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.” **Romans 12:17-21 (NIV)**

Notes: _____

➤ How can I honor my parents better?

My next right step I will:

- Write a letter thanking my parents for how they impacted my life
- Volunteer to do something for my parents
- Forgive and release my parents over to God
- Accept Jesus as my Lord and Savior

Battle For The Family: 4 of 4
“Battle For Our Parent’s Honor”
Cornerstone Church of Poway



[This is only a guide – select the points you want to discuss.]

Open your group with a prayer.

Icebreaker:

When you were a kid, what made it difficult for you to obey your parents?

Big Idea: Our families are not the enemy. We must battle against the devil, our culture and our flesh for the future of our families.

Read Ephesians 6:1-4

As a parent, will you train your kids differently or similar to your parents? Why?

How can giving into poor behavior set up our kids to fail in the future?

What tends to provoke children to anger?

How do you show honor to your parents?

To Keep The Devil From Gaining A Foothold, We Must:

1. Honor Our Parents With Our Words

Proverbs 15:4-5

Why does God care about how we speak to our parents?

Read Ephesians 4:29

How difficult is it for you to hold your tongue?

Who, in your life, needs to hear some encouraging words?

2. Honor Our Parents By Caring For Their Needs

Read Matthew 15:5-9

Commentary: 15:5, 6 This was the practice of *Corban* (literally, "offering"; see Mark 7:11). Anyone who made a Corban vow was required to dedicate money to God's Temple that otherwise would have gone to support his parents. Corban had become a religiously acceptable way to neglect parents, circumventing the child's responsibility to them. Although the action—giving money to God—seemed worthy and no doubt conferred prestige on the giver, many people who took the Corban vow were disregarding God's command to care for needy parents.

Life Application Study Bible.

How does our culture often treat the elderly?

How do you plan to care for your parents when they are not able to take care of themselves?

Read 1 Timothy 5:8 Why would Paul make such a harsh statement?

3. Honor Our Parents By Extending Grace And Forgiveness

Read Ephesians 4:31-32

Many adults are not able to move on in their lives because they harbor bitterness towards their parents. Why should we choose to forgive and release the past?

Read Romans 12:17-21 (NLT2)

Read and discuss Life Application Study Bible Commentary:

In a perfect world, all people could live peacefully together. Realistically this is impossible in our imperfect world. 12:19 Quoting from Deuteronomy 32:35, Paul reminds us that though we may want to **avenge** ourselves, we must **leave that to God**. Refusing to take revenge avoids grudges and feuds. God will ensure that his just vengeance will be given. 12:20 The opposite of repaying with evil and taking revenge is caring for our **enemies**.

Why does “getting even” make things worse, instead of better?

How does the wording, “as far as it depends on you” help you in conflict resolution?

How well do you do at “leaving room for God” to work? Why?

Warrior Prayer #4 [Ephesians 6:1-4; Matthew 15:5-9; Romans 12:17-21]

Dear Heavenly Father,

Our culture shows little respect or honor towards the elderly. You remind us that we need to set an example of honoring our parents throughout our lives. We confess that sometimes we have been less than honoring with our words and our actions. We have used harsh and hurtful words that have made our relationships awkward and distant. Please forgive us and help us to use words that will build up instead of tearing down.

Sometimes we take our parents for granted and just assume that they are okay and we neglect to be present in their lives. We acknowledge that this is our privilege and responsibility to care for them in their senior years. We choose to take up our responsibility of caring for their needs.

Lord, some of us have experienced past abuse, neglect, unrealistic expectations, hurtful words and more that have left us deeply wounded. There are no perfect parents except for You God. We are not excusing or minimizing the hurt from the past, but we don't want to stay captive to our bitterness any longer. Today, we choose to forgive and release them into your hands because you are the ultimate judge and we are not.

We ask You to rebuke the enemy from our families and bring healing into our relationships. Help us to love, forgive, and to honor one another. Amen.